

THE BIBLICAL VIEWPOINT ON SLAVERY¹

The Bible teaches that *GOD IS NO RESPECTOR OF PERSONS* i.e. every man is equal in God's sight:

1. **We are all equally sinful in our unregenerate state.**

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God... For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...” – Rom. 3:10-11, 23

2. **We are all equally loved by God.**

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” – Rom. 5:8-9 (NKJV)

3. **Every believer is absolutely equal in regard to their standing before God, whether man or woman, Jew or Gentile, slave or free.**

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Gal. 3:28 (NKJV)

4. **The Principles of Applied Biblical Christianity NATURALLY & UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSE SLAVERY IN ANY FORM!**

- a. **Acts 10: 28 cf. 10:34-35** – *“Then he said to them, ‘You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean... In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’”* (NKJV)
- b. **Romans 2:11** – *“For there is no respect of persons with God.”*
- c. **I Peter 1:17** – *“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear...”*
- d. **Colossians 3:11, 25** – *“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all... But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”*
- e. **Ephesians 6:9** – *“And ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.”*
- f. **Galatians 2:6; 3:26 & 28** – *“But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me (NKJV) ...For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”*
- g. **II Chronicles 19:5-7** – *“And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, ‘Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man,*

¹ By Rev. Mike Edwards, March, 2007, St. Vincent, West Indies, revised March, 2015, Madison, Ohio (All verses KJV except where otherwise noted).

but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.”

- h. **Deuteronomy 10:17-19** – *“For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, who regards not persons, nor takes reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*
- i. **I Corinthians 7:21 cf. Ephesians 2:14-19** – *“Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it... For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...” (NKJV)*

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS REGARDING SLAVERY:

- **Slavery has existed for Millennia, for thousands of years prior to the African slave trade.**

“[M]any who repeat the ‘giving back’ mantra would sneer at any such notion as patriotism or any idea that the institutions and values of American society have accomplished worthy things and deserve their support, instead of their undermining. Our educational system, from the schools to the universities, are actively undermining any sense of loyalty to the traditions, institutions and values of American society. They are not giving back anything except condemnation, often depicting sins common to the human race around the world as peculiar evils of ‘our society.’

A classic example is slavery, which is repeatedly drummed into our heads—in the schools and in the media—as something unique done by white people to black people in the United States. The tragic fact is that, for thousands of years of recorded history, people of every race and color have been both slaves and enslavers. The Europeans enslaved on the Barbary Coast of North Africa alone were far more numerous than all the Africans brought to the United States and to the 13 colonies from which it was formed. What was unique about Western civilization was that it was the first civilization to turn against slavery, and that it stamped out slavery not only in its own societies but in other societies around the world during the era of Western imperialism. That process took well over a century, because non-Western societies resisted... Those who want to ‘give back’ should give back the truth. It is a debt that is long overdue.” — Thomas Sowell²

- **There were probably more slaves than free men at the time of the Roman Empire when the New Testament writers lived & the majority of those who were slaves were European.**
- **Slavery still exists in our world today & millions of individuals are currently still enslaved and being enslaved by tyrannical governments, Islamic fundamentalists, etc.**

² Taken from *The Patriot Post*, in a section called “*For the Record*” (date unknown, circa 2000?). Thomas Sowell is an extremely well-known and highly respected economist, social commentator, writer & thinker. He is also African-American, which makes his comments especially noteworthy. —Mike Edwards